MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know with reference to answer to part (c) of the question whether all the employees are Travancoreans?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The report is that a large majority of them are Travancoreans.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN: May I know, if non-Travancoreans are employed there, the reason for it?

MR. C. KUMARA DAS: The employment of labourers is in the discretion of the Company. The company are not bound to take only Travancoreans.

Water Cess.

56. ***MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are realising water cess at the rate of Rs. 7 per acre from certain garden and dry lands in the taluks of Kalkulam and Agastisvaram?

MR. K. KUNJAN PILLAI: No; but when dry lands are converted into wet making use of the Kodayar Channel water, water cess at the rate of Rs. 7 per acre is charged on such conversions.

Alkaline Soil.

57 ***MR. C. JEBAMONY NADAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the soil of a fairly large portion of the paddy fields in Marungoor and adjacent pakuthies is Alkaline; and

(*b*) the steps taken by Government to improve these soils?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Extensive investigations have been carried out and the results thereof, including remedial measures, have been published in Bulletin No. 8 (1924) of the Department of Agriculture. The methods of raising crops successfully on Alkaline lands are demonstrated at the Thiruppathisaram Paddy Farm.

Mavelikara-Chunakara Road.

58 ***MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any amount is allotted for the maintenance of the Mavelikara-Chunakara road *via* Kurathikad in the Mavelikara taluk; and

(*b*) if so, whether any amount has been spent on the same during the years 1115, 1116 and 1117?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, Rs. 1,025 in 1115; Rs. 698 in 1116; Rs. 401 in 1117.

Karampathippu.

59 ***MR. E. E. PANDARATHIL** (*Travancore Jenmies, South*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the approximate number of cases in which "Karampathippu" has been effected in favour of Government; and

(*b*) the amount that will accrue to Government by way of tax?

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